Bridgwater Nov. 7th 1853

My dear Sir

Although I have not the pleasure of your personal acquaintance I venture to address you, in consequence of Miss Estlin advising me to address a letter to you in order to open a correspondence with the American Anti slavery Society. About forty of us have formed a Society here, in order to cooperate as best we may with those who are earnestly labouring in the Anti Slavery Cause. We meet, ladies and gentlemen, at regular intervals to read from the periodicals and other sources of information whatever is thought likely to ~~[illegible]~~ interest us in the Abolition movement; and the ladies bring the work which they are engaged upon for the Bazaar. - We are at present going through the sketch of the Abolition movement, which is contained in the Antislavery advocate: I only wish that in parts it were more full of details; for I am anxious that our Society should really know what an excellent spirit has animated that body from its origin, and should thus be guarded against the Infidel cry, which is just now rearing itself again amongst us. - The great majority of our Society are quite in the dark as to the many difficulties your Society has had to overcome, and as yet know hardly that there are differences in vital matters between Anti Slavery men. I ~~write~~ tell this to you, that you may write in accordance with their wants, and may ~~write~~ send a letter in accordance with their ignorance. The great thing that I desire is to show the great principle of the anti-slavery Movement, "no compromise with iniquity". You know how in England we have been hoodwinked, and are hoodwinked yet as to the nature of much that is done in the Antislavery world. Our friends here are old members of the Brit. & For., and would I fear not bear at once the full disclosure of the duplicity of many Antislavery movements.— The course which I therefore think it advisable to adopt is not to enter upon discussions on things past but to take for granted the great principles of immediate abolition, and speak and act as if all naturally agreed with me. When we have gone through a sketch of the Abolition History I purpose asking the great question, whether any sectarian prejudices ought to permit us to refuse cooperation to men who like your society have borne the brunt of the battle, but whom people chose to brand with the name of Infidel. I write thus about our present position, so that you may assist in this plan if you think right, or if not may give me advice as to a better plan: for to your experience I will gladly give way.— We have sent our subscription to the Anti slavery Standard through Mr Webb. If there is anything else we can do to help your society, besides working for the Bazaar, let me know.

And now let me tell you what is a pretty general feeling amongst us here. You could help the progress of Antislavery feeling very much, if you were always to have a good representative of your society in this country. You cannot imagine for instance what good Mr. McKim of Philadelphia has done among us: awakening a sympathy with the abolitionists, not merely based on impulse, but on principle, and at the same time showing us, that the most earnest abolitionists are not what they have so frequently been represented to us mere hairbrained enthusiasts, but sober thinking men. If some one like him were continually travelling in England

I believe that a much more healthy feeling would exist amongst us. As it is I think this short visit has been very useful, and I trust you will see its effects at the Convention to be held next year in London. The Committee in London I fear will try to compromise the question, but there will be some staunch antislavery men there who will not suffer this topic to be slurred over.— Mr Chamerovzow seems personally desirous of doing right, but he seems hampered by the old society. The movement which he set on foot among our Churches was very good, I wish I could speak as hopefully as the one he has now in hand, a reform in India.— No doubt this would be useful, but an antislavery Society ought to direct its operations to the root of the Evil, and though I have a good deal of sympathy with a Freelabour movement, yet I think the great Advocates of this plan, with Professor Stowe at their head shift the responsibility of slavery from its true position, and making the slaveholders almost appear innocent, throw the blame on others. As an auxiliary movement I Th[illegible] comparatively helpless. I like the freelabour idea, but when it is made the great "cheval de battaille" I fear it hinders rather than advances the cause. I should be glad to know your views upon this subject.—

You must excuse this rather hurried and desultory letter. I am yet a novice in my office of secretary— I hope in time to be better able to fulfil my duties. Let me hear from you, or from some other member of your Society, who you think could assist us and believe me

with the greatest respect
Yours faithfully
S Alfred Steinthal

Revd S. May.

LIVERPOOL NO 30 1853 A4
BRIDGEWATER NO 28 1853 B

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